

REMARKS

This paper is being submitted in response to the Office Action mailed in the application on March 14, 2007. Claims 1-14, 16-25, 28-30, 32, 33, 35, 36, 38-41, and 43-52 are pending. Claims 1, 24, 25, 43, and 41 have been amended. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added. Claims 15, 50, 53, and 54 have been canceled herein. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

On page 2, paragraph 4 of the Office Action, Examiner states that the phrase “wherein said binding mechanism is permanently positioned between said first and second edges of said spine” in claims 1, 51, and 54 introduced new matter because the specification does not state how the binding mechanism is attached to the spine, and therefore there was no indication in the original disclosure that the binding mechanism was attached in a permanent manner. While Applicant respectfully disagrees, and in order to expedite prosecution, Applicant has amended claim 1 to remove the phrase “permanently positioned between said first and second edges of said spine”. Claim 51 is amended to remove the phrase “wherein said binding mechanism is permanently positioned between said first and second edges of said spine”. Claim 54 is canceled.

On page 3, paragraph 6 – 8 of the office action, Examiner rejected claim 43 for insufficient antecedent basis and for depending upon canceled claim 27. Claim 43 has been amended as requested by the Examiner to correct these deficiencies.

Independent claim 1

Applicant thanks Examiner for indicating that each of claims 4, 12, 14, 15, 19, 20, and 46, which depend on independent claim 1, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form

incorporating all the limitations of its independent claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 15. Applicant submits that amended claim 1 should thus be allowable, along with the claims depending therefrom. Claim 15 has been canceled.

Independent claim 24

Applicant thanks Examiner for indicating that claim 50, which depends on claim 24, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form incorporating all the limitations of its independent claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claim 24 to include the limitations of claim 50. Applicant submits that amended claim 24 should thus be allowable, along with the claims depending therefrom. Claim 50 has been canceled.

Independent claim 25

Applicant thanks Examiner for indicating that claim 53 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form incorporating all the limitations of its independent claim and intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claim 25 to include the limitations of claim 53. Applicant submits that amended claim 25 should thus be allowable, along with the claims depending therefrom. Claim 53 has been canceled.

Independent claim 44

Applicant thanks Examiner for indicating that claims 44 and 45 are allowed.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and formal

notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Authorization is given to charge any fees necessary for entry of this Amendment to Deposit Account 13-2500.

Applicant hereby authorizes the Commissioner under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3) to treat any paper that is filed in this application, which requires an extension of time, as incorporating a request for such an extension. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees required by this paper or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No.13-2500.

Respectfully submitted,

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